

SECRET

MARCH 1981

THE ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA), A RADICAL LEFTIST GUATEMALAN GROUP, CONTINUES TO HOLD CLIFFORD BEVENS, A U.S. CITIZEN KIDNAPPED BY ORPA IN DECEMBER 1980 IN GUATEMALA CITY. A LEADER OF THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNION (URN), WHICH COMPRISES THE FOUR MAJOR RADICAL LEFTIST GUATEMALAN GROUPS, SAID THAT ORPA PLANS TO BE VERY PATIENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE KIDNAPPING OF BEVENS, WHO IS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF A SUBSIDIARY OF THE GOODYEAR TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY IN GUATEMALA. HE SAID THAT ORPA LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO HOLD BEVENS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD BEFORE THEIR DEMAND FOR

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RANSOM OF U.S.\$10 MILLION IS MET. ( ) COMMENT: A U.S.\$FOUR  
 MILLION RANSOM DEMANDED BY ORPA FOR THE RELEASE OF BLANCA ESTELA  
 M O L I N A, SISTER OF A PROMINENT GUATEMALAN INDUSTRIALIST, MAY HAVE  
 BEEN RECEIVED IN THAT MOLINA REPORTEDLY WAS RELEASED DURING THE LAST  
 WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1981. IF SO, ORPA IS UNDER NO PRESSURE TO SETTLE FOR  
 LESS THAN THE RANSOM DEMANDED FOR BEVENS.)

THE URN LEADER SAID THAT THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP), A RADICAL LEFTIST GUATEMALAN GROUP ALSO PART OF THE URN, CONTINUES TO HOLD AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMAN, LEON DON R I C H A R D S O N, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN MID-FEBRUARY 1981, SOON AFTER HE ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA. COMMENT: THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE EGP PLANS OR THE TERMS, IF ANY, FOR RICHARDSON'S RELEASE.)

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